Hints for the Use of Wattyl Clear Lacquer Finish (aka Incralac)

I have used Wattyl Clear Lacquer Finish (previously known as Incralac) for over 30 years, mainly on polished, matted and grained brass and silver, and on paper clock dials. When applied correctly it will form a sealant barrier to prevent metal oxidisation and tarnishing for over 20 years!

Paper dials.

I use this lacquer to seal clock paper dials. After the paper dial is fixed to the metal dial pan, (I use a spray contact adhesive), apply the initial coat very lightly then allow to dry and assist with a hair dryer. Lightly, because the solvent in the lacquer will/may cause the printed numerals to run. Keep applying light coats with heated drying in between coats and the lacquer will build up a sealing layer on the paper and give it a pleasant parchment appearance.

Metal protection.

Following are some of my experiences which shall help you achieve an excellent, invisible protective coating on decorative metal surfaces, steel, silver, as well as copper and brass.

1. Polish or grain the metal by your preferred method such as a buffing wheel and compound or a product such as Autosol or Wenol.

2. Rinse off all residues of the polishing compound with mineral turps and dry buff the metal parts with a clean, soft cloth.

3. Wash down with acetone and dry buff with a clean dry cloth again.

4. Warm the Lacquer spray can in hot top water for several minutes. Shake well several times during the warming process. This increases the internal pressure in the can to give a finer atomised spray. The heat also reduces the viscosity of the lacquer to also produce a finer spray which will flow and level off on the metal.

5. DO NOT HEAT THE JOB AS THIS WILL CAUSE VERY FAST DRYING OF THE LACQUER THE MOMENT IT HITS THE SURFACE. ANY IMPERFECTION SUCH AS ORANGE PEEL, RUNS, POOLING ETC. WILL BE LOCKED ON AS THE FINAL FINISH. VERY UNDESIRABLE.

6. Shake the can as per the instructions and apply a single pass, light full cover coat. Experiment on test surfaces to develop a technique of hand action. Use the adjustable spray jet to suit direction of spray required. Read the instructions on the can.

7. The lacquer has very volatile solvent base and so dries very quickly (seconds to a minute depending on the climatic conditions) and may be assisted by the use of a hair dryer. It will be dry to handle in just a couple of minutes. Experiment again.

8. If you are not happy with the coating simply remove it with several washes/wipes with acetone then dry buff the job again to remove any solvent residues.

9. When finished spraying invert the can and spray into a small glass bottle until the jet is cleared. The lacquer captured in the bottle is ideal for brush application to small parts, ie. clock wheels where lacquer placement is critical. Do not lacquer the teeth of a clock wheel.

10. Remove the white spray nozzle from the top of the can and immerse it in acetone. This will dissolve out any lacquer residues. Also, with a fine brush put some acetone down the top of the tube which is normally under the spray nozzle. Both of these precautions will keep the fine spray jet and tube clear and ensure the spray pattern is fine and evenly spread the next time you want to use the product.

    Wattyl Clear Lacquer Finish is a superb product which I have used exclusively on hundreds of 400-day clocks, 4-glass regulator case clocks, carriage clocks, silvered dials, paper dials, etc. With a little practice you will achieve excellent invisible protection for most any metal surface.

Lindsay Bramall.
fixoclock.net